

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 SS-15 CCO-00 OC-06

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O 211331Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5643

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 7374

FOR EUR/EX JOAN M. CLARK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: APER, AEMR, LE, GR

SUBJ: RELOCATION OF BEIRUT PERSONNEL TO ATHENS

REF: (A) STATE 178008, (B) BEIRUT 6372, (C) BEIRUT 6315

1. IN ASSESSING FEASIBILITY OF RELOCATING BEIRUT PERSONNEL TO ATHENS, DEPARTMENT SHOULD BEAR IN MIND TWO CONSIDERATIONS: FIRST, THAT THIS EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BE ANXIOUS TO DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO ASSIST OUR BELEAGUERED EMBASSY IN BEIRUT; SECOND, THAT WE MUST BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL NOT REPEAT NOT TO AGGRAVATE SENSITIVITIES OF GREEK GOVERNMENT BY CONSPICUOUSLY INCREASING AMERICAN OFFICIAL PROFILE IN GREECE.

2. IN PRACTICAL TERMS THIS MEANS THAT WHATEVER RELOCATIONS TO ATHENS OCCUR MUST BE CONSIDERED TEMPORARY AND DESIGNED TO MEET THE EMERGENCY SITUATION IN LEBANON. WE CANNOT REPEAT NOT ASSUME THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WOULD AUTOMATICALLY ACCEPT PERMANENT OR EVEN LONG-TERM TRANSFER OF OFFICIAL US PERSONNEL AND FUNCTIONS FROM BEIRUT TO ATHENS. INDEED, PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS HAS MADE CLEAR TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE WOULD CONSENT TO USE OF ATHENS AS A TEMPORARY SAFE HAVEN FOR USG PERSONNEL EVACUATED FROM BEIRUT BUT SPECIFICALLY
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REQUESTED THE AMBASSADOR NOT REPEAT NOT TO TRANSFER

ANY USG ACTIVITIES HERE ON A PERMANENT BASIS.

3. AT THE PRESENT TIME WE HAVE TEMPORARILY ABSORBED THE RTDO STAFFED BY TWO AMERICANS AND TWO LEBANESE AND HAVE ALSO AGREED TO THE TEMPORARY TRANSFER TO THE RHODES VOA PROGRAMMING UNIT OF FIVE ARABIC-SPEAKING NON-AMERICAN PERSONNEL.

4. WE ARE ALSO PREPARED ON A TEMPORARY BASIS TO ACCEPT TDY ASSIGNMENT TO ATHENS OF THREE CONSULAR OFFICERS AND TWO CONSULAR LOCALS TOGETHER WITH VISA FILES AND RECORDS. THIS POSSIBILITY WAS DISCUSSED WITH AMBASSADOR SEELYE AND HIS COLLEAGUES BY AMBASSADOR KUBISCH AND CONSUL GENERAL DAVIS WHEN THE SEELYE PARTY TRANSITED ATHENS ENROUTE TO BEIRUT. WE MADE CLEAR AT THAT TIME THAT WE WOULD DO OUR UTMOST TO RELIEVE PRESSURES ON BEIRUT SUBJECT ONLY TO OUR NEED NOT REPEAT NOT TO OVERLOAD THE CIRCUIT WITH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT AND PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS ON OUR CAPACITY TO ABSORB ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.

5. REGARDING ADDITIONAL TRANSFERS CONTEMPLATED IN BEIRUT'S 6372, WE SEE NO REPEAT NO PROBLEM IN ABSORBING ADDITIONAL SECRETARIAL HELP BUT WISH TO GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO TDY ASSIGNMENT OF MARINE GUARDS BEFORE APPROVING THIS MOVE.
KUBISCH

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